

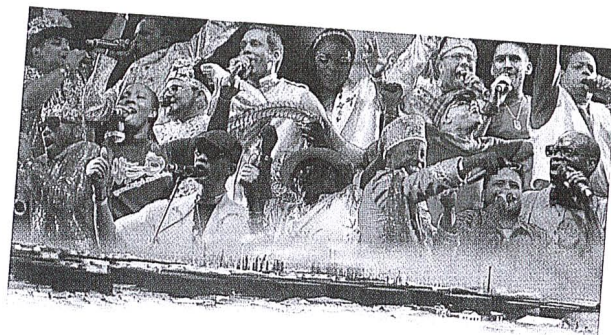
up lyrics on the spot). They often say "it's too boring" or "too slow". There is now a growing concern in the Aruban community that this historical art form, in its unique Aruban style, is on its "deathbed". Some have even said that "kaiso dead already".

Taking the above description as a point of departure, a collaborative project was initiated in 2013 by Dutch Caribbean film maker Sharelly Emanuelson and myself with the aim of documenting parts of the intangible cultural heritage of our islands. We set out to publish a book entitled "Calypso and Resistance in Aruba" and a film entitled "Mighty Lords, Kings and Queens: Calypso and the politics of Recognition". The book publication is a compilation of selected conference proceedings and speeches given between the period of 2010 and 2013 which sought to present and analyse new perspectives in the field of calypso research in a region (Dutch Caribbean) that has not yet sufficiently been explored. Themes such as double entendre (double meaning), multilingualism, mele (gossip), humor, social/political commentary and self-reflection have been elaborated upon.

The film/documentary sought to reflect on the diversity of Aruba's community and furthermore attempted to voice the thoughts of several musicians on the Calypso & Roadmarch/Soca art form on the island with its particular roots in the town of San Nicolas. Some of the persons that appear in the film are Mighty Tattoo, Mighty Talent, Black Diamond, The Baron, Lady K, Lady V, Mighty Whitey and the late Hildward 'El Principe' Croes. It also features some of our all-time Aruban calypso greats, such as Lord Boxoe, Young Quick Silver and others. Next to this, we also held a series of educational meetings where we gave workshops to schools and did media appearances to bring awareness to the art form.

See website link for project details <http://calypsomusicheritagearuba.tumblr.com/>

The book and film was presented successfully on January 30th, 2015 in Cas di Cultura. There were many persons in attendance and the feedback was positive. After the screening of the documentary, calypsonians present were presented with a DVD copy of the film. DVD's and books were also available for purchase that evening. However the DVD's are now sold out. If the film gets the support (funds) needed, there will be a second version (with subtitles) that



MIGHTY LORDS, KINGS & QUEENS CALYPSO AND THE POLITICS OF RECOGNITION



will be presented at different film festivals around the world.

The books are still available for purchase in all DeWit/VanDorp stores in Aruba and via Bookish Plaza online in the Netherlands/Europe. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bookishplaza/>

For pics of the book/film launch visit our Mighty Lords, Kings and Queens FB Page <https://www.facebook.com/MLKQFILM2015>

To conclude I must express that this is just one step in a much larger journey that all of us are a part of. If we are to document the history, culture, music, language, sayings, expressions and so on of our people everyone has their part to play.

Note: This project was in part carried with the financial support of Prins Bernhard Fonds Caribisch Gebied. The book/film launch at Cas di Cultura was in part carried out with the financial support of UNOCA.

